

## Financial and Technical Assistance Potential Sources for Voluntary Wetland Activities in Virginia

(Revised Sept. 2004)

This document is divided into four sections: *Grants and Foundations*; *Cost Share and Payment Programs*; *Land Conservation and Easement Programs*; and *Technical Assistance*. The information contained in this document includes many financial and technical assistance sources for voluntary wetland activities in Virginia. The document is intended to provide basic information *at-a-glance* as well as contacts for further more detailed information. This document is also available in PDF format from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay websites: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/wetlands/> - go to *Contacts & Links*, and <http://www.acb-online.org/> - go to *Publications*.

### **Grants and Foundations**

This section contains information concerning environmental grant and foundation funding programs. Many of these listings are not specific only to Virginia or to voluntary wetland activities; however all of these listings have funded such projects in the past. Eligible recipients vary but generally include nonprofit organizations and often local or state agencies (see listings for more details).

**Name:** Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program

**Lead Agency/Organization:** NFWF/CBP/ USEPA

**Goal (s):** To provide grants to organizations working on a local level to protect and improve watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay basin, while building citizen-based resource stewardship. The purpose of the grants program is to address the water quality and living resource needs of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. The Small Watershed Grants Program has been designed to encourage the development and sharing of innovative ideas among the many organizations wishing to be involved in watershed protection activities. Supported activities in recent years has included:

- Support communities in developing and implementing watershed management plans;
- Encourage innovative, locally-based programs or projects that improve water quality and restore important habitats within the Chesapeake Bay basin;
- Develop the capacity of local governments, citizens groups, and other organizations to promote community based stewardship and enhance local watershed management;
- Encourage environmentally sensitive development, land conservation, and sound land use planning;
- Promote a greater understanding of the Chesapeake Bay and the interrelationship between the health of the Bay and the condition of local watersheds; and
- Strengthen the link between communities and the Chesapeake Bay Program.

**Eligibility:** Non-profit 501 (c) organizations or local governments within Chesapeake Bay watershed. Individuals, state and federal government agencies, and private for-profit firms are not eligible for grants under this program.

**Funding Specifics:** Grants range between \$5-\$50,000, with average grant award between \$25,000 and \$35,000. Additionally, a few grants of up to \$100,000 are typically awarded through the *Community Legacy Grants* initiative. Matching funds are not required, but preference is given to projects that leverage the grant award with contributions of funds, goods or services from project partners.

**Restrictions:** Projects must also directly address at least one of the priority goals of the *Chesapeake 2000 Agreement*. See website for more details.

**Application Deadline:** Typically February of each year, due February 2, 2004

**Contact Info:** Jonathan Mawdsley  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Attn: Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program  
1120 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: 202-857-0166  
Email: [jonathan.mawdsley@nfwf.org](mailto:jonathan.mawdsley@nfwf.org).

Website: <http://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake/index.htm>

---

**Name: Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund (CBRF)**

**Lead Agency/Organization:** Virginia Division of Legislative Services

**Goal (s):** Environmental education, and restoration and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay.

**Eligibility:** Applications will be accepted from state agencies, local governments, and public or private nonprofit agencies, institutions, or organizations. Grants will not be awarded to individuals. Preferences will be given to environmental education and action-oriented conservation and restoration projects within Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed.

**Funding Specifics:** Average award is \$2-5K and maximum is typically \$30K.

**Match requirements:** Matching funds are not required but suggested.

**Restrictions:** Activities which are not eligible for funding include: Capital construction; Endowments; Annual giving or fund raising; Salaries or benefits (unless directly performing specific project activities); Indirect costs; Food items; Lawsuits/litigation; Political action programs/lobbying.

**Application Deadline:** Typically due Oct 1 of each year.

**Contact Info:** Martin Farber, Division of Legislative Services (804) 786-3591  
Patty Lung, Senate Committee Operations (804) 698-7450  
General Assembly Building  
910 Capitol Street, 2nd Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

<http://dls.state.va.us/cbrfac.htm>

---

**Name: Community-based Restoration Program (CRP)**

**Lead Agency/Organization:** National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
Fisheries

**Goal (s):** Grass-roots habitat restoration benefiting living marine resources

**Eligibility:** Institutes of higher education, hospitals, nonprofit organizations, commercial and international organizations, state/local/tribal governments

**Funding Specifics:** Average award is \$50K to \$200K, No proposals under \$25K or over \$250K accepted.

**Match requirements:** Strongly encouraged to match CRP funds on minimum 1:1 basis; can be cash or in-kind goods and services. Average grant award is between \$25,000 and \$35,000.

**Restrictions:** Strong on-the-ground habitat restoration, educational, and volunteer components required. Federal funds may not be used for to match CRP funds. Limits on funds use for indirect project costs. Projects on private lands must ensure protection for life of project. Projects cannot be mitigation for: regulated activities, restoration of natural resource damages, direct water quality improvement (i.e. wastewater treatment plant upgrades), or fulfilling court orders not related to project.

**Application Deadline:** Various dates for various grants

**Contact Info:** Robin Buckner  
NOAA Restoration Center  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East West Highway (F/HC3)  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282  
301-713-0174  
[Robin.Bruckner@noaa.gov](mailto:Robin.Bruckner@noaa.gov)

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance*, program number 11.463, Habitat Restoration  
[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects\\_programs/crp/index.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/index.html)

---

**Name:** Fish America Foundation

**Lead Agency/Organization:** NOAA Fisheries / American Sportfishing Association

**Goal (s):** On-the-ground habitat restoration benefiting fishery resources

**Eligibility:** Public and private organizations, local/state/tribal governments

**Funding Specifics:** Typical award of \$5K to \$30K

**Match requirements:** Matching funds can consist of a combination of cash donations, in-kind services and/or volunteer labor. Matching funds cannot include indirect costs.

**Restrictions:** Projects must clearly demonstrate significant benefits to marine, estuarine, or anadromous fisheries resources, particularly sportfish. Must have educational, volunteer, and restoration components. Proposals may be part of larger project funded in other ways, but a discrete project objective must be completed within one year of funds award through this program.

**Application Deadline:** Varies for various grants

**Contact Info:** FishAmerica Foundation  
225 Reinekers Lane, Ste. 420  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703-519-9691  
[fishamerica@asafishing.org](mailto:fishamerica@asafishing.org)

<http://www.fishamerica.org/faf/>

**Name: Five-Star Restoration Challenge Grants****Lead Agency/Organization:** USEPA / National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)**Goal (s):** Community-based wetland, riparian, and coastal habitat restoration that builds diverse partnerships and fosters local natural resource stewardship**Eligibility:** Any public or private entity**Funding Specifics:** Typical award is \$5K to \$20K, with average of \$10K.**Match requirements:** The Five Star Partnership strongly encourages the applicant to have a group of partners and donors in place that have pledged to provide funding and/or in-kind goods and services before applying for a Five Star grant. Projects that can leverage the amount of funds requested with significant cash or in-kind contribution from project partners are much more competitive. On average, competitive projects are usually able to demonstrate partner contributions of at least 1:1 and often significantly higher (e.g., >2:1). Matching contributions can be both federal and non-federal.**Restrictions:** Projects must involve partnerships of ideally five organizations that contribute funding, land, technical assistance, workforce support, and/or other in-kind services. Must include a strong on-the-ground wetland, riparian, or coastal habitat restoration component and should also include education, outreach, and community stewardship components. Projects may be a discrete part of a larger restoration effort but must be ready to complete within a one-year time frame upon receipt of funding. Projects that are part of a mitigation requirement are not eligible for funding.**Application Deadline:** Typically March of each year, March 1, 2004**Contact Info:**

John Pai  
USEPA  
Wetlands Division  
USEPA Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20460  
202-566-1350  
[pai.john@epa.gov](mailto:pai.john@epa.gov)

Tom Kelsch  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-857-0166  
[kelsch@nfwf.org](mailto:kelsch@nfwf.org)

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/5star-rfp.htm>

---

**Name: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – General Matching Grant Program****Lead Agency/Organization:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)**Goal (s):** NFWF conserves healthy populations of fish, wildlife and plants, on land and in the sea, through creative and respectful partnerships, sustainable solutions, and better education. The Foundation awards matching grants to projects that address priority actions promoting fish and wildlife conservation and the habitats on which they depend, work proactively to involve other conservation and community interests, leverage Foundation-provided funding, and evaluate project outcomes.**Eligibility:** Federal, state, and local governments, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations**Funding Specifics:** Grants typically range from \$10,000-\$150,000, based upon need.

**Match requirements:** Strongly encouraged to match funds at least a 2:1 return, minimum required is 1:1 basis; matching funds must be: non-federal in origin; raised and dedicated specifically for the project; voluntary in nature; and applied only to the Foundation grant and not to any other federal matching programs.

**Restrictions:** NFWF will not support grants seeking Political advocacy or litigation of any kind; shortfalls in government agency budgets; general administrative overhead or indirect costs; multi-year grants (recipients may reapply); basic research (including graduate research).

**Application Deadline:** Project pre-proposals are accepted throughout the year and slated for review and action within two decision cycles annually.

**Contact Info:** Tom Kelsch

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-857-0166  
[kelsch@nfwf.org](mailto:kelsch@nfwf.org)

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/guidelines.htm>

---

**Name: Migratory Bird Conservancy (MBC) Grant Program**

**Lead Agency/Organization:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)

**Goal(s):** Conservation of bird habitats including acquisition, restoration, and management

**Eligibility:** Private individuals, organizations, government entities

**Funding Specifics:** Average award is about \$40,000; with a range of \$20,000 to \$70,000. Funding managed by NFWF through challenge grant program.

**Match requirements:** Awarded funding must be matched minimum 1:1 basis with cash or in-kind contributions.

**Restrictions:** The MBC will fund projects that directly address conservation of priority bird habitats in the Western Hemisphere. Acquisition, restoration, and improved management of habitats are program priorities. Education, research, and monitoring will be considered only as components of actual habitat conservation projects.

**Application Deadline:** Pre-Proposals: June, Full Proposals: July

**Contact Info:** Peter Stangel

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
[stangel@nfwf.org](mailto:stangel@nfwf.org)  
404-679-7099

[http://www.nfwf.org/programs/grant\\_apply.htm](http://www.nfwf.org/programs/grant_apply.htm)

---

**Name: North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation Grants**

**Lead Agency/Organization:** North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC)

**Goal (s):** Projects must strengthen the capacity of citizens and communities to monitor aspects of their Environments that affect their own health.

**Eligibility:** Non-profit, non-governmental organizations in North America

**Funding Specifics:** Maximum award amount \$25K

**Restrictions:** Projects must meet the following criteria: be community-based; address a specific issue/problem; use partnerships with other organizations; build capacities of local people/organizations; link environmental, social, economic issues; bring additional funding or support in addition to grant award. For 2003, projects had to fit category of “environmental monitoring and assessment related to human health.”

**Application Deadline:** Typically March of each year

**Contact Info:** Commission for Environmental

Cooperation (CEC)

393 St-Jacques West, Suite 200

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

H2Y 1N9

514-350-4357

[NAFEC@ccemtl.org](mailto:NAFEC@ccemtl.org)

[www.cec.org](http://www.cec.org)

[http://www.cec.org/files/PDF/NAFEC/NAFEC\\_CFP\\_2003\\_en.pdf](http://www.cec.org/files/PDF/NAFEC/NAFEC_CFP_2003_en.pdf)

---

**Name: North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Grants** in support of North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)

**Lead Agency/Organization:** US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

**Goal (s):** Wetlands conservation projects. Promote long-term conservation of North American wetland ecosystems, and the waterfowl and other migratory birds, fish and wildlife that depend upon such habitat. Principal conservation actions supported by NAWCA are acquisition, creation, enhancement and restoration of wetlands and wetland-associated uplands.

**Eligibility:** Public or private, profit or nonprofit entities or individuals establishing public-private sector partnerships, in US, Canada, Mexico

**Funding Specifics:** Standard grants: \$50K to \$1 million. Small grants: less than \$50K. Min. 10 year contract if funds used for leases or easements.

**Restrictions:** Projects must support long-term wetlands acquisition, restoration, and/or enhancement. Funds may only be used for wetlands acquisition, creation, enhancement, and/or restoration. Education, research, and monitoring only considered when components of conservation project.

**Match requirements:** Cost-share partners must match grant funds 1:1 with non-federal, US dollars.

**Application Deadline:** Standard grants: typically March and July. Small grants: typically end of November.

**Contact Info:** Melanie Steinkamp

USFWS- Mid Atlantic Coordinator

North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office (NAWWO)

American Holly Drive, Room 206B

Laurel, MD 20708

(301) 497-5678

(301) 497 -5706

[melanie\\_steinkamp@fws.gov](mailto:melanie_steinkamp@fws.gov)

<http://northamerican.fws.gov/NAWCA/grants.htm>

**Name: Private Stewardship Grants Program****Lead Agency/Organization:** US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**Goal (s):** To benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species by providing grants and assistance to individuals and groups.**Eligibility:** Landowners and their partners who need technical and financial assistance to improve habitat or implement other activities on private lands (land that is not owned by a governmental entity). Private landowners, individually or as a group as well as individuals or groups (for example land conservancies, community organizations, or conservation organizations) working with private landowners on conservation efforts are eligible to apply. State agencies are not eligible to apply.**Match requirements:** Minimum of 10% cost sharing (i.e., at least 10 percent of total project cost) on the part of the landowner or other non-Federal partners involved in the project is required. The cost share must come from sources other than Federal funds.**Restrictions:** This grant program supports on-the-ground conservation actions as opposed to planning or research activities, and will not fund the acquisition of real property either through fee title or easements.**Application Deadline:** Typically March**Contact Info:** Diane Lynch, Regional DirectorUSFWS  
300 Westgate Center Drive  
Hadley, MA  
01035-9589  
413.253.8628[http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private\\_stewardship/](http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private_stewardship/)

---

**Name: Project AWARE Grants****Lead Agency/Organization:** Project AWARE Foundation**Goal (s):** Support worthwhile aquatic conservation projects such as: Public education; Grass roots conservation and enhancement projects; research leading to conservation; Public awareness initiatives; Environmental assessment and monitoring projects; and Volunteer-supported community activism**Eligibility:** Individuals, organizations, government entities**Funding Specifics:** Micro Grant Program - up to \$1K; provides funding for localized grass roots efforts. Macro Grant Program - up to \$10K; provides funding for large-scale regional, national or international efforts.**Restrictions:** Projects awarded funds are not eligible for repeat funding until the following year. Does not fund: legislative advocacy; projects whose methods are not environmentally accepted; overhead expenses including salaries, stipends, benefits or tuition; capital expenses including computer hardware/software or office furnishings; travel and living expenses; dive equipment or instruction; products designed for resale. Because funding is limited, partial funding may be awarded in lieu of full funding.**Note:** As this grant program is administered through PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) and the mission of Project Aware is to conserve underwater environments, it is most likely that coastal wetland activities would be



funded rather than in noncoastal sites.

**Application Deadline:** Board of Directors quarterly meetings: Quarterly

**Contact Info:** Project AWARE Foundation

Suite 200 - PADI Professional Bldg  
30151 Tomas Street  
Rancho Santa Margarita  
CA, 92688-2125 USA  
866-80 AWARE Ext.2659 (US and Canada)  
email: [information@projectaware.org](mailto:information@projectaware.org)

<http://www.projectaware.org/americas/english/grants.asp>

---

**Name:** Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) Virginia Program and Mini-Grant Program

**Lead Agency/Organization:** Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE)

**Goal (s):** The mission VEE is to improve the quality of the environment by using its capital to encourage all sectors to work together to prevent pollution, conserve natural resources, and promote environmental literacy. Grantmaking priorities in the Virginia Program are focused on water quality research and monitoring of water quality conditions; land and open space conservation; Chesapeake Bay fisheries conservation, research, and education; and environmental education. The Virginia Mini-Grant Program supports community-based efforts to strengthen environmental education and to promote stewardship of Virginia's waterways. Preference is given to modest local projects. Public and private schools (K-12) and nongovernmental, nonprofit community organizations in Virginia are eligible to apply for one-year Mini-Grant awards up to \$5,000.

**Eligibility:** Virginia Program: nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable organizations and institutions and to governmental agencies. Mini-Grant Program: Public and private schools (K-12) and nongovernmental, nonprofit community organizations in Virginia are eligible to apply for local, state, and federal government agencies and programs are not eligible.

**Funding Specifics:** Mini-Grant awards have a maximum of \$5K; 2003. Virginia Program grants ranged from \$1,800-\$74,500.

**Match requirements:** Minimum 1:1. Volunteer time may not be used for matching funds.

**Restrictions:** VEE currently limits awards to eligible nonprofit organizations for programs conducted in the state of Virginia.

**Application Deadline:** March 15, August 1, and December 1

**Contact Info:** Gerald McCarthy, Executive Director

Three James Center  
1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1400  
P. O. Box 790  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-0790  
Phone: (804) 644-5000  
E-mail: [info@vee.org](mailto:info@vee.org)

<http://www.vee.org/index.cfm>



**Name: Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grants****Lead Agency/Organization:** USDA-FS / VDOF

**Goal (s):** To encourage those projects that promote tree planting, the care of trees, the protection and enhancement of urban and community forest ecosystems, and education on tree issues in cities, towns and communities across the nation. Grants are awarded through this program to encourage local government and citizen involvement in creating and supporting long-term and sustained urban and community forestry projects and programs at the local level. This program is for programs, projects or activities not currently being funded, and is not intended to substitute for existing funding levels. The focus of this program is to support new initiatives that would not otherwise occur during the funding cycle.

**Eligibility:** State agencies, local and regional units of government, nonprofit organizations, neighborhood associations and civic groups, public educational institutions (college level) or community tree volunteer.

**Funding Specifics:** Typical proposal is \$6K to \$10K; Recommended-funding range for most proposals is \$1,000 to \$20,000.

**Match requirements:** Minimum 1:1 match required, more than 1:1 encouraged. Match may be in the form of cash, services, or in-kind contributions. Matching cost-share funds or in-kind contributions cannot be used as a match for any other Federal cost-share project.

**Restrictions:** Nongovernmental organizations must be designated a 501-c-3 non-profit organization or submit their application through such an organization or a government entity. Urban and Community Forestry grants are not intended for the purpose of beautification plantings; tree planting proposals are acceptable only if the tree planting is used for the purpose of research, education, or demonstration.

**Application Deadline:** Typically spring of each year

**Contact Info:** Virginia Department of Forestry

900 Natural Resources Drive, Ste. 800

Charlottesville, VA 22903

434-977-6555

Paul Revell, Urban Forestry Coordinator

[revellp@dof.state.va.us](mailto:revellp@dof.state.va.us)

<http://www.vdof.org/info/grants.shtml>

---

**Name: Wetland Program Development Grant****Lead Agency/Organization:** US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

**Goal (s):** Main funding priorities: Developing a comprehensive wetland monitoring and assessment program; (2) improving the effectiveness of compensatory wetland mitigation; and (3) refining the protection of vulnerable wetlands and aquatic resources.

**Eligibility:** States, Tribes, local governments, interstate associations, intertribal consortia, and national nonprofit, non-governmental organizations.

**Funding Specifics:** Total funding available for award by EPA depends each year on the Wetlands Program's yearly fiscal appropriation. (Previous grant awards in 2003 ranged from \$11,000 to \$496,000).

**Match requirements:** Minimum of 25% project cost required.

**Restrictions:** Local/regional chapters/affiliations of nonprofit organizations are not eligible for WPDGs and applications will only be accepted from the national headquarters level of nonprofit, non-governmental organizations. National nonprofit organizations are only eligible to submit their proposals to the Headquarters Wetland Grant Coordinator for this competition. (See Section VII for Agency Contact information for Virginia.)

**Application Deadline:** March 15, August 1, and December 1

**Contact Info:** Alva Brunner

U.S. EPA Region 3  
1650 Arch Street, MC 3EA30  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Phone: 215-814-2715  
[brunner.alva@epa.gov](mailto:brunner.alva@epa.gov)

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grantguidelines/>

### Other helpful information about grants:

**Match definition:** Can also be referred to as *Cost Share*. Match is the amount of money that the applicant organization or partners are prepared to spend on the project. These contributions can be in the form of cash (cash outlay), in-kind contributions, or donated goods and services. Each grantor has different match requirements and different restrictions on allowable match.

**Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection:** This Website allows you to query for financial assistance sources (grants, loans, cost-sharing) and enter specific information about type of assistance, eligible organization type, match requirements and keywords. <http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/>

**Environmental Foundation Funding:** The Foundation Center is a centralized, web-based clearinghouse of foundation funding and resources. Foundations are arranged by category. For environmental foundation funding, go to:  
[http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_environment.jhtml;jsessionid=FSF5E2TG0RSOYP5QALRSGXD5AAAAC12F](http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_environment.jhtml;jsessionid=FSF5E2TG0RSOYP5QALRSGXD5AAAAC12F)

### Online tools for grant writing:

**Grant Terminology, Grant Research and Writing Tips:**

<http://www.howard.k12.md.us:16080/grants/Terminology.html>

**Grant-writing tools for non-profit organizations –** <http://www.npguides.org/>

**EPA Grant-Writing Tutorial (on line version) -** <http://www.epa.gov/seahome/grants/src/grant.htm>

## **Cost Share and Payment Programs**

This section of the document is intended to describe incentive-based programs geared to landowners for voluntary wetland activities. Funding specifics vary with program and should be closely examined. Typically, the landowner's portion of the project cost is typically required upfront, with reimbursement after project completion.

### **Name: Chesapeake Bay Foundation Wetland Restoration Program**

#### **Lead Agency/Organization: Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)**

**Goal (s):** To provide funding and technical assistance for wetland restoration projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

**Eligibility:** Private or public landowners within Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed

**Funding Specifics:** Flexible funding- landowner portion of cost can be met with in-kind assistance or donated materials. Project cost share by landowners is up to 100% reimbursable.

#### **Contact Info:** Libby Norris

Virginia Watershed Restoration Specialist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Virginia State Office

1108 E. Main Street, Suite 1600

Richmond, VA 23219

804.780.1392

[lnorris@cbf.org](mailto:lnorris@cbf.org)

<http://www.cbf.org>

---

### **Name: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) - Virginia**

**Lead Agency/Organization:** US Department of Agriculture - Farm Service Agency/ Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-FSA/ NRCS)

**Goal (s):** To encourage farmers and ranchers to remove lands from agricultural production in order to improve water quality and to treat environmentally sensitive areas by promoting voluntary establishment of forested streamside buffers, filter strips and the restoration of wetlands.

**Eligibility:** Private agricultural landowners in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed and eligible portions of Southern Rivers watersheds.

**Funding Specifics:** FSA annual rental payments are based on soil types. Annual rental rates typically range from \$70-\$100/acre and include incentives and maintenance. 10 or 15-year contracts. Additional perpetual conservation easement option available for Virginia. Rates are capped at \$100/acre for Chesapeake Bay watershed and \$90/acre for Southern River portion. Bonus payment of \$100/acre for 100-ft wide forested buffers within the Chesapeake Bay. Cost-share payment (upon project completion) up to 50% of total cost. Additional cost-share payment of 25% - 40%, not to exceed \$200/acre of restored buffer or wetland. **As of July 1, 2004 an additional \$200/acre (for total of \$400/acre) bonus is available within Southern Rivers and Chesapeake Bay for wetland restoration practices.**

**Restrictions:** General Restrictions: Certain practices only: filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration.

Land Restrictions: Cropland must be planted or considered planted with an agricultural commodity for 4 out of 6 of the years between 1996-2002) and by definition, the land must physically and legally be able to be cropped. Marginal pasture must be suitable as a riparian buffer (hardwoods). Proposed land must meet one of following criteria: filter strips must be within 100 feet of stream bank or channel; riparian buffers must be within 300 feet of stream bank or channel; wetland restoration must be entirely or predominantly hydric soils, not to exceed 40 acres in size. Haying and grazing not allowed during contract period.

Landowner Restrictions: Landowner must have owned land for at least 12 months prior to enrollment (some exceptions apply). The Landowner cannot have an existing CRP contract for same land.

**Application Deadline:** Continuous, with no competitive offer required

**Contact Info:** John Myers  
WRP Program Manager; USDA-NRCS  
1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209  
Richmond, VA 23229-5014  
[john.myers@va.usda.gov](mailto:john.myers@va.usda.gov)

---

**Name:** Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Virginia

**Lead Agency/Organization:** US Department of Agriculture - Farm Service Agency/ Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-FSA/ NRCS)

**Goal (s):** Water quality and habitat enhancement and Conversion of highly erodible land (HEL)

**Eligibility:** Private agricultural landowners; Privately owned, highly erodible cropland or environmentally sensitive acreage

**Funding Specifics:** Participants receive 50% cost share + 40 % incentive payment and 20% rental rate (over regular rental rate by 1.2%). 10-15 year contracts

**Restrictions:** General Land Restrictions: Land must be cropland planted or considered planted with an agricultural commodity for 4 out of 6 of the years between 1996-2002), and which is physically and legally able to be planted in a normal manner with agricultural commodity; or must be marginal pasture land that has either a certain acreage enrolled in Water Bank Program or is suitable for use as riparian buffer to be planted with trees.

Landowner Restrictions: Landowner must have owned land for at least 12 months prior to enrollment (some exceptions apply). Owners must implement conservation plan that converts sensitive lands to a less intensive use

**Application Deadline:** Continuous enrollment available for certain special practices such as riparian buffers, filter strips, etc.

**Contact Info:** John Myers  
WRP Program Manager; USDA-NRCS  
1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209  
Richmond, VA 23229-5014  
[john.myers@va.usda.gov](mailto:john.myers@va.usda.gov)

**Name: Chesapeake Bay Foundation Wetland Restoration Program**

**Lead Agency/Organization:** Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)

**Goal (s):** To provide funding and technical assistance for wetland restoration projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

**Eligibility:** Private or public landowners within Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed

**Funding Specifics:** Flexible funding- landowner portion of cost can be met with in-kind assistance or donated materials. Project cost share by landowners is up to 100% reimbursable.

**Contact Info:** Libby Norris

Virginia Watershed Restoration Specialist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Virginia State Office

1108 E. Main Street, Suite 1600

Richmond, VA 23219

804.780.1392

[lnorris@cbf.org](mailto:lnorris@cbf.org)

<http://www.cbf.org>

---

**Name: Ducks Unlimited Chesapeake Bay Wetland Restoration Program**

**Lead Agency/Organization:** Ducks Unlimited (DU)

**Goal (s):** To provide funding and technical assistance for wetland restoration projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

**Eligibility:** Private landowners within Virginia's James, Rappahannock and Potomac (including Shenandoah) watersheds

**Funding Specifics:** Flexible funding- landowner portion of cost can be met with in-kind assistance or donated materials. Project cost share by landowners is up to 90% reimbursable for wetland restoration. Warm season grass buffers are also up to 90% buffers as long as associated with the wetland project.

**Contact Info:** Jonas Davis

[jdavis@ducks.org](mailto:jdavis@ducks.org)

<http://www.ducks.org>

**Name: Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)**

**Lead Agency/Organization:** US Department of Agriculture-Forestry Service (USDA-FS)

**Goal (s):** Keep private forestlands and natural resources productive and healthy

**Eligibility:** Non-industrial private forest owners, group associations, corporations, Indian tribes, or other legal, private entities

**Funding Specifics:** Incentive payments to landowners for approved projects will be based on the practice number (See web link for details on payment rates for different incentive payments.). Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) will compute one incentive payment or billing, whichever applies, upon completion of the project. VDOF expenses for services rendered and for seedlings purchased from VDOF will be deducted from the FLEP payment. The incentive payment will be made within an approximate two-week period.

**Restrictions:** Landowners must be willing to maintain cost-shared practices for a minimum of 10 years. During this 10-year period, if the landowner or a future landowner destroys the practice, the landowner must refund the cost-share assistance plus a 10% penalty charge. **Maximum:** 100 acres per year per landowner (may be for several projects). **Minimum:** 1-acre minimum.

**Application Deadline:** Sign-ups begin when funds are received (typically around July 1) and continue as long as funds are available. The completion date will be 12 months from the date of application approval.

**Contact Info:** Virginia Department of Forestry  
Fontaine Research Park, 900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800  
Charlottesville Virginia, 22903  
Phone: (434) 977-6555  
<http://www.vdof.org/mgt/cip-fact-flep.shtml>

**No funds have been allocated to this program in 2004 as of 1/1/2004.**

---

**Name: Partners for Fish and Wildlife - Virginia**

**Lead Agency/Organization:** US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

**Goal (s):** To promote voluntary restoration of wetlands and streamside habitats through offering of technical and financial assistance.

**Eligibility:** Private (non-federal) and corporate landowners. Cost Share is currently available for only specific areas of VA and changes with internal funding levels. Contact USFWS for more information.

**Funding Specifics:** Landowner cost share portion is low, and can be met with in-kind services or donated materials.

**Restrictions:** See Eligibility- Program funding only applicable for certain portions of the state.

**Contact Info:** Partners for Fish and Wildlife  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
6669 Short Lane  
Gloucester, VA 23061  
804-693-6694  
David Byrd ext 133 or  
Willard Smith ext 124  
<http://partners.fws.gov/index.htm>

**Name: Cost-Share and Tax Credit for Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

**Lead Agency/Organization:** Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)

**Goal (s):** Assist with installation of conservation practices that protect water and make farms more productive

**Eligibility:** Farmers in designated priority watersheds within Virginia

**Funding Specifics:** Funding availability varies by SWCD. Per acre payments for certain practices; cost-share up to 75% for certain practices. Tax credit through VA Agric. BMP Tax Credit Program of 25% of first \$70K spent on installation of BMPs

**Restrictions:** \$7,500 max. cap per individual for cropland practices and most animal waste practices (exceptions apply). Landowners must adhere to approved conservation plan. Tax credit amount shall not exceed \$17,500 or the total amount of the tax imposed, whichever is less, in the year the project was completed

**Application Deadline:** Continuous enrollment

**Contact Info:** <http://www.dcr.state.va.us/sw/docs/> , then select bmpsbro2.pdf link for 2003 BMP Cost-Share Program brochure.

VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation  
Division of Soil and Water Conservation  
804-371-7330

---

**Name: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Technical Landowner Assistance Program**

**Lead Agency/Organization:** Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)

**Goal (s):** To provide assistance to undertake wetland restoration or habitat improvement and management projects.

**Eligibility:** Private and public landowners

**Funding Specifics:** Up to 100% Cost Share is reimbursed to landowner upon project completion up to 90% of total cost. VDGIF also provides additional perpetual conservation easement option. Statewide program- not limited to particular watershed or region

**Restrictions:** Agreements for 10-15 years with landowner

**Application Deadline:** None

**Contact Info:** David Norris, Wetland Habitat Biologist VDGIF  
Website: <http://www.dgif.state.va.us> Phone: 757.253.7072 ext 110  
Fax: 757. 254.4182  
Email: [dnorris@dgif.state.va.us](mailto:dnorris@dgif.state.va.us)



**Name: Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)**

**Lead Agency/Organization:** US Department of Agriculture- Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA - NRCS)

**Goal (s):** Encourages the creation of high quality wildlife habitats primarily on private land. Allows for the development and protection of upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas. WHIP provides cost share assistance to conservation-minded landowners who are unable to meet the specific eligibility requirements of other USDA conservation programs to promote voluntary restoration of wetlands and other fish and wildlife habitats through the offering of technical and financial assistance.

**Eligibility:** Eligible lands include: Privately owned; Federal land when primary benefit is on private or Tribal land; State and local government on a limited basis; and Tribal land.

**Funding Specifics:** Cost-share payments up to 75% of cost for installation of habitat development practices, with max. \$10K per agreement. Contracts for 5 to 10 years

**Restrictions:** Landowners agree to help develop and implement a wildlife habitat development plan and manage the property accordingly. Applications are ranked based on their wildlife benefits, so some projects may not be funded. Funds cannot be used on actual mitigation costs of any kind, but mitigation areas can be included in the plan. Participants voluntarily limit future use of land for a period of time, but retain private ownership.

**Application Deadline:** Continuous enrollment

**Contact Info:** John Myers  
WRP Program Manager; USDA-NRCS  
1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209  
Richmond, VA 23229-5014  
[john.myers@va.usda.gov](mailto:john.myers@va.usda.gov)

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/>

---

**Name: Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)**

**Lead Agency/Organization:** USDA-NRCS

**Goal (s):** Provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance and protect wetlands. The goal is to restore degraded wetlands to “natural” conditions. In eastern VA, focus is on groundwater dependent hardwood forested wetlands. In mountain region, focus is on spring seep and herbaceous/shrub wetlands.

**Eligibility:** Private landowners and Tribes with eligible agricultural land in US

**Funding Specifics:** Permanent Easement: Payment is the least of 3 scenarios: the agricultural value of the land, an established cap amount, or amount offered by landowner. USDA pays 100% of restoration costs. USDA pays all property recording, abstract, survey, appraisal fees and title insurance

30-year Easement: Payment is 75% of what would have been paid for a permanent easement for land. USDA pays 75% of restoration costs. USDA pays all property recording, abstract, survey, appraisal fees and title insurance

Cost-Share Agreement: Min. 10 yrs involving no easements. Payment is 75% of wetland restoration activity cost. Additional funding sources encouraged to offset owners’ expenses

**Restrictions:** Easement Option Restrictions: Landowners must have owned land for at least 1 year prior to enrollment (exceptions apply). Landowner continues to pay property taxes on easements. Compatible uses of easement lands only allowed if consistent with protection and enhancement of wetland

Cost-Share Option Restrictions: Proof of ownership required

General Land Restrictions: Property must be restorable and suitable for wildlife benefits such as: farmed wetlands, prior converted wetlands, former/degraded wetlands in pasture, range land, or production forest, riparian areas connected to protected wetlands or are along streams, previously restored wetlands not under long-term easement. Federal lands, timber stands under CRP contracts, wetlands converted after 12/23/85, or impossible restoration conditions are not eligible

**Application Deadline:** Continuous

**Contact Info:** John Myers  
WRP Program Manager; USDA -NRCS  
1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209  
Richmond, VA 23229-5014  
[john.myers@va.usda.gov](mailto:john.myers@va.usda.gov)

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/factsheets/2002/VA2002.pdf>

## **Land Conservation and Easement Programs**

This section of the document details some of the many programs in Virginia that assist private landowners with establishing land conservation and other easements. For a more thorough listing of Virginia Land Trust organizations and contact information go to <http://www.lta.org/findlandtrust/VA.htm>.

**Name:** Land Conservation Program

**Lead Agency/Organization:** Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC)

**Goal (s):** PEC provides assistance to landowners to encourage landowners to place conservation easements and undertake land conservation measures

**Eligibility:** Private landowners in certain counties of the Piedmont Region in Virginia

**Funding Specifics:** Voluntary donation of land for conservation easements and/or in some counties, easements are purchased

**Restrictions:** Landowners agree to restrictions on use of land under easement agreements. Landowners encouraged to install water quality improvement practices. Counties where PEC has obtained easements: Albemarle, Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier, Greene, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock

**Application Deadline:** Varies by county program

**Contact Info:** Piedmont Environmental Council

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 460  
Warrenton, VA 20188

**Location:**

45 Horner St.  
Warrenton, VA  
Phone: 540-347-2334  
Fax: 540-349-9003

<http://www.pecva.org/conservation/conservationintrod.asp>

---

**Name:** Open Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund

**Lead Agency/Organization:** Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF)

**Goal (s):** Preserve farmland, forestland, and natural and recreational areas by restricting intensive uses

**Eligibility:** Individual landowners in VA

**Funding Specifics:** Funds may pay for legal costs, appraisals, and all or part of the easement's value.

**Restrictions:** Priority may be given to applications that seek cost re-reimbursement only, demonstrate financial need, or cover a family-owned or operated farm. VOF's staff and Board of Trustees and the co-holder evaluate each potential easement for its scenic, scientific, natural, historic, recreational or open-space value using the VOF's Guidelines. VOF Guidelines recommend an overall density of principal residences of one house per 100 acres or less, and that parcels of less than 100 acres permit no subdivision.

**Application Deadline:** Applications reviewed twice yearly for approval.

**Contact Info:** Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Eastern Virginia Office

203 Governor's Street

Suite 317

Richmond, VA 23219

804-225-2147

<http://www.virginiaoutdoorsfoundation.org/vof/ptf.htm>

---

## **Land Conservation and Easement Programs**

**Name:** Orange County Conservation Fund

**Lead Agency/Organization:** Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC)

**Goal (s):** Protect lands threatened by sprawl development

**Eligibility:** Private landowners in certain Orange County

**Funding Specifics:** To purchase at-risk properties and those with especially high conservation value in order to sell the land to conservation buyers dedicated to protecting it. To purchase conservation easements (also known as purchase of development rights -- PDR) from selected landowners, who would or could not otherwise place an easement on their property. Voluntary donation of land for conservation easements and/or in some counties, easements are purchased

**Restrictions:** Any conservation land purchases will be resold, and the proceeds reinvested in the Fund; PEC will either place conservation easements on such properties prior to resale or, under limited circumstances, sell to one or more committed conservation buyers with a commitment that they would place the land in conservation easement. In other cases, conservation or development rights to an at-risk property may be purchased from the landowner, who benefits from the sale and continues to open and maintain control over the land .

**Application Deadline:** New initiative still in the development stages

**Contact Info:** Piedmont Environmental Council

John Moore

540-672-0141

<http://www.pecva.org/counties/orange/orangefund.asp>

---

**Name:** Land Trust Alliance

**Lead Agency/Organization:** Land Trust Alliance (LTA)

**Goal (s):** To promote voluntary land conservation and strengthens the land trust movement by providing the leadership, information, skills and resources land trusts need to conserve land for the benefit of communities and natural systems.

**Contact Info:** Land Trust Alliance

1331 H Street NW, Suite 400

Washington DC 20005-4734

202-638-4725

<http://www.lta.org/index.shtml>

## **Technical Assistance**

This section of the document provides contacts for technical assistance offered for voluntary wetland activities within Virginia.

### **Organization: Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)**

**Eligibility:** Private or public landowners within Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed

**Contact Info:** Libby Norris  
Virginia Watershed Restoration Specialist  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Virginia State Office  
1108 E. Main Street, Suite 1600  
Richmond, VA 23219  
804.780.1392  
[lnorris@cbf.org](mailto:lnorris@cbf.org)  
<http://www.cbf.org>

---

### **Organization: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.**

**Eligibility:** Private landowners within Virginia's James, Rappahannock and Potomac (including Shenandoah) watersheds.

**Contact Info:** Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
Jonas Davis  
Mid-Atlantic Field Office  
203 Romancoke Road, Suite 90  
Stevensville, MD 21666  
410-643-5300  
[jdavis@ducks.org](mailto:jdavis@ducks.org)  
[www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)

---

### **Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners for Wildlife**

**Eligibility:** Private (non-federal) landowners in U.S. Technical assistance is currently available for wetlands in Rappahannock, Roanoke, and Back Bay Watersheds, and on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Technical assistance is currently available for streams in the Rappahannock, Shenandoah Valley, and Upper Tennessee Watersheds, and on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

**Contact Info:** Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
6669 Short Lane  
Gloucester, VA 23061  
804-693-6694  
David Byrd ext 133 or  
Willard Smith ext 124  
<http://partners.fws.gov/index.htm>

**Name: Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program**

**Organization: National Park System (NPS)**

**Comments:** Rivers & Trails staff work with community groups and local and State governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways.

**Contact Info:**

Wink Hastings  
Chesapeake Bay Program Field Office  
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance  
National Park Service  
410 Severn Avenue  
Suite 109  
Annapolis, MD 21303  
(410) 267-5747  
[Hastings.Wink@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Hastings.Wink@epamail.epa.gov)

Ursula Lemanski  
Potomac Field Office  
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box B  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425  
Fax (304) 535-4020  
(304) 535-4018  
[ursula\\_lemanski@nps.gov](mailto:ursula_lemanski@nps.gov)

<http://www.nps.gov/rtca/>

---

**Name: Private Landowner Technical Assistance**

**Organization: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)**

**Comments:** Will provide technical assistance, including project design, even if landowner does not enroll in program with VDGIF.

**Contact Info:** Dave Norris  
Williamsburg Regional Office  
5806 Moore Town Road  
Williamsburg, VA  
23188  
(757) 253-7072  
[dnorris@dgif.state.va.us](mailto:dnorris@dgif.state.va.us)

---

**Name: Wetland Reserve Program**

**Organization: Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Comments:** Provides technical assistance for private and public landowners who want to undertake riparian, wetland or grassland activities.

**Contact Info:** John Myers  
WRP Program Manager; USDA-NRCS  
1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209  
Richmond, VA 23229-5014  
[john.myers@va.usda.gov](mailto:john.myers@va.usda.gov)